

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LY

SUBJ: QADHAFI'S TECHNOCRATS

1. MOST WESTERN OBSERVERS EQUATE QADHAFI'S RULE WITH THAT OF TRADITIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENTS. YET, A CLOSER EXAMINATION OF THE COLONEL'S REGIME REVEALS THAT WHILE THE APEX OF THE PYRAMIDAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE DOES CONSIST OF A HALF A DOZEN MILITARY OFFICERS THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE OFFICIALS WHO ACTUALLY RUN THE GOVERNMENT ARE CIVILIAN TECHNOCRATS. THE TECHNOCRATS PRESENCE IS MOST EVIDENT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH WAS RECENTLY REORGANIZED THIS PAST OCTOBER. A EXAMINATION OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE COUNCIL'S 26 MEMBERS HOLDING MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS RANGING FROM MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR NUTRITION AND MINERAL WEALTH REVEALS THAT ONLY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR MAJOR HUMAYDI IS FROM THE RANKS OF LIBYA'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS BRING CIVILIAN EXPERTISE TO SUCH POSITIONS IN JUSTICE, PETROLEUM, HEALTH, PLANNING, HOUSING, COMMUNICATIONS, INDUSTRY, MARINE TRANSPORT AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. INVARIABLY, THESE TECHNOCRATS HOLD ADVANCED DEGREES FROM EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, MANY OF THEM ARE PH.DS, SUCH AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION MOHAMMAD AHMAD AL-SHARIF WHO RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

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OTHERS SUCH AS MINISTER OF PETROLEUM IZZ AL-DIN AL-MAKBRUK

BRING THE EXPERIENCE OF SEVERAL YEARS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY. MABRUK, FOR EXAMPLE WORKED IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. HE BEGAN HIS OIL CAREER AS AN EMPLOYEE OF ONE OF THE MAJOR AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES IN LIBYA. AFTERWARDS MABRUK OBTAINED HIS UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN THE U.S. WHERE HIS STUDIES WERE SPONSORED BY THE OIL COMPANY. IN MOST INSTANCES LIBYA'S PRESENT MINISTERS WHO STUDIED IN THE UNITED STATES WERE COUNSELED AND ASSISTED BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING SERVICES.

2. AS A RESULT OF THEIR EDUCATION ABROAD, SEVERAL OF THESE TECHNOCRATS SUBSEQUENTLY MARRIED EUROPEAN OR AMERICANS AND THEY INVARIABLY SPEAK SEVERAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS THESE TECHNOCRAT MINISTERS ARE UNDER FORTY YEARS OF AGE. THEIR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCES IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE IN MANY INSTANCES GENERATED PRO-U.S. SENTIMENTS WHICH ARE NEVER EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC BECAUSE OF QADHAFI'S ANTI-U.S. POSITION.

3. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MEMBERS OF THIS HIGHLY EDUCATED COTERIE ARE THE SCIONS OF LIBYA'S OLDEST TRADITIONAL FAMILIES WHO WERE TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE THE ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THE REGIME OF KING IDRIS SUNUSI II. DESPITE THIS BACKGROUND, THESE TECHNOCRATS APPEAR HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE OF COL. QADHAFI'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP LIBYAN SOCIETY. TO THIS EXTENT THEY APPEAR TO SHARE QADHAFI'S TENETS THAT THE REVOLUTION MEANS IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIBYAN STANDARD OF LIVING.

4. THE MOST RECENT GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS EXEMPLIFIED THIS GROUP'S RESTRICTED ROLE OF SOLELY FORMULATING THE POLICIES, PROJECTS AND SCHEMES NECESSARY FOR LIBYA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION AND DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THESE TECHNOCRATS HAVE VIRTUALLY NO INFLUENCE ON THE FORMULATION OF POLICY OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF DEVELOPMENT. WHILE COL. QADHAFI GENERALLY ACCEPTS THEIR ADVICE, THEIR DECISIONS ARE OFTEN OVERRULED OR INFLUENCED BY THE COLONEL OR OTHER RCC MEMBERS. THIS INTERFERENCE HAS CREATED PROBLEMS WHICH

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HAVE OFTEN RESULTED IN THE FAILURE OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. YET, ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN UNDP OFFICIAL WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY LESS PEDDLING OF INFLUENCE PRESENTLY EXISTS BECAUSE OF THESE PREVIOUS FAILURES.

5. IF REORGANIZATION OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TAKES PLACE AS QADHAFI HAS PLEDGED TO THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S

CONGRESS, THEN THESE MINISTER TECHNOCRATS WILL HAVE GREATER
DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. THEY WILL ALSO BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE TO THE GPC FOR THE FAILURE OF THEIR MINISTRIES
TO IMPLEMENT LIBYA'S GRANDIOSE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. TO
THE EXTENT COL. QADHAFI IS SERIOUS ABOUT THIS INTENTION
TO ESTABLISH A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AND EVENTUALLY DISSOLVE
THE RCC, LIBYA'S FUTURE LEADERS WILL PROBABLY COME FROM
THE RANKS OF THESE TECHNOCRATS.
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